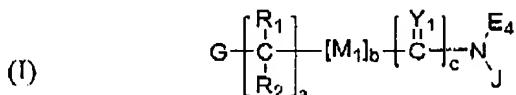


Amendments to the Claims:

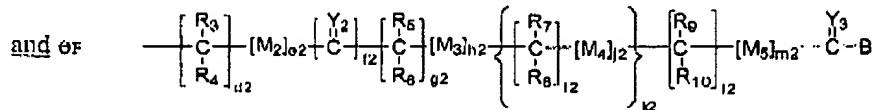
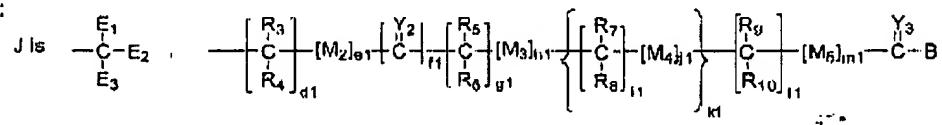
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

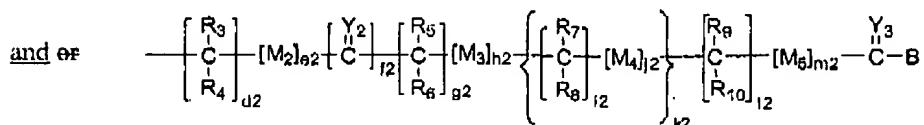
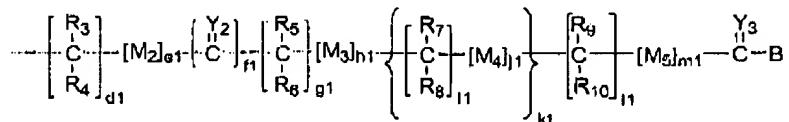
1. (currently amended) A compound comprising the formula:



wherein:



$E_{1-4}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyls, C<sub>3-12</sub> branched alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> substituted alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls, substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, phenoxy, C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkoxy,

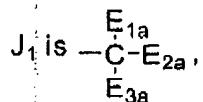


and at least one of  $E_{1-4}$  includes a B moiety;

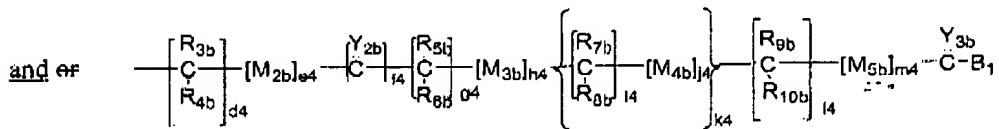
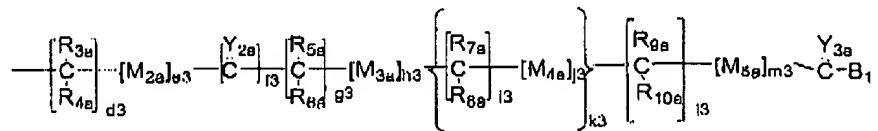
B is a leaving group, OH, a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety, a residue of an amine-containing moiety or



wherein  $E_5$  is independently selected from the same group which defines  $E_{1-4}$ ;



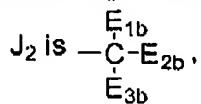
$E_{1a-3a}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, phenoxy,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkoxy,



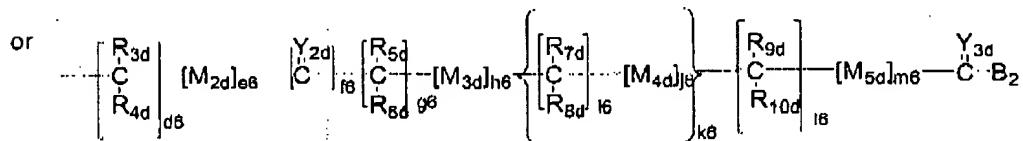
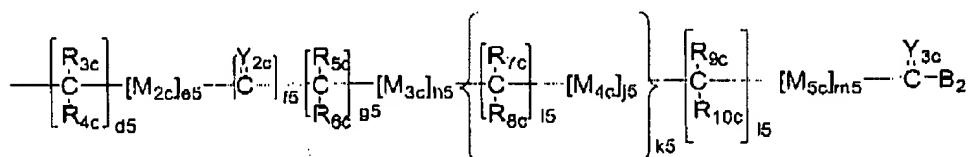
wherein  $B_1$  is a leaving group, OH, a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety or a residue of an amino-containing moiety or



wherein  $E_6$  is independently selected from the same group which defines  $E_{1-4}$ ;



wherein  $E_{1b-3b}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, phenoxy,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkoxy,



wherein  $B_2$  is a leaving group, OH, a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety or a residue of an amine-containing moiety;

$G$  is a polymeric residue;

$Y_{1-3}$ ,  $Y_{2a-d}$  and  $Y_{3a-d}$  are each independently O, S or  $NR_{11a}$

$M_{1-4}$ ,  $M_{2a-2d}$ ,  $M_{3a-3d}$ , and  $M_{4a-4d}$  are each independently O, S or  $NR_{11b}$ ;

$M_5$  and  $M_{5a-d}$  are each independently X or Q,

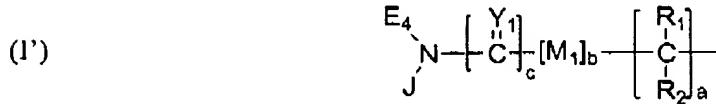
wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from  $C(=Y_3)$  or  $C(=Y_{3a-d})$ ;

$R_{1-10}$ ,  $R_{1a-11a}$ ,  $R_{1b-11b}$ ,  $R_{1c-10c}$  and  $R_{1d-10d}$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{1-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{1-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, phenoxy and  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkoxy; and

$a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d1-d6$ ,  $e1-e6$ ,  $f1-f6$ ,  $g1-g6$ ,  $h1-h6$ ,  $i1-i6$ ,  $j1-j6$ ,  $k1-k6$ ,  $l1-l6$ ,  $m1-m6$  are each independently zero or a positive integer; and

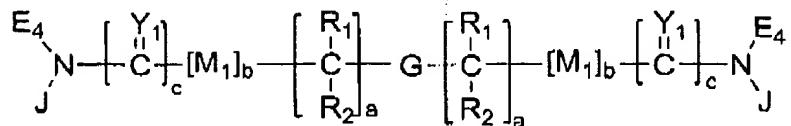
$i1-i6$ ,  $j1-j6$  and  $k1-k6$  are each independently selected positive integers.

2. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $G$  further comprises a capping group A, which is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $CO_2H$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl moieties, and



wherein  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $R_{1-2}$ ,  $M_1$ ,  $Y_1$ ,  $E_4$  and J are the same as set forth in claim 1.

3. (currently amended) A compound of claim 2, of the formula:



4. (currently amended) The compound of claim 1, where  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d1-d6$ ,  $e1-e6$ ,  $f1-f6$ ,  $g1-g6$ ,  $h1-h6$ ,  $i1-i6$ ,  $j1-j6$ ,  $k1-k6$ ,  $l1-l6$ , and  $m1-m6$  are independently zero, one or two; and  $i1-i6$ ,  $j1-j6$ , and  $k1-k6$  are independently one or two.

5. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are both H,  $a$  and  $c$  are one,  $Y_1$  is O and both  $E_1$  and  $E_4$  are H.

6. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein G is polyalkylene oxide residue.

7. (original) The compound of claim 6, wherein G is a polyethylene glycol residue.

8. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein G is  $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_x$  or  $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O})_x$ .

wherein  $x$  is the degree of polymerization.

9. (currently amended) The compound of claim 8, wherein G is  $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_x-$  and x is a positive integer so that the weight average molecular weight is at least about 20,000 daltons.

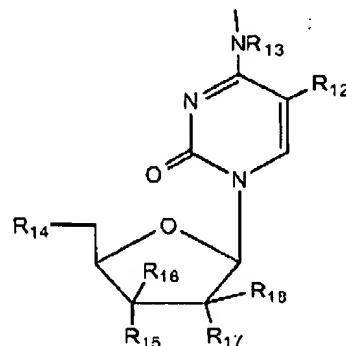
10. (currently amended) The compound of claim 9, wherein G has a weight average molecular weight of from about 20,000 to about 100,000 daltons.

11. (currently amended) The compound of claim 10, wherein G has a weight average molecular weight of from about 25,000 to about 60,000 daltons.

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12. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety.

13. (original) The compound of claim 12, wherein said amine-containing moiety is

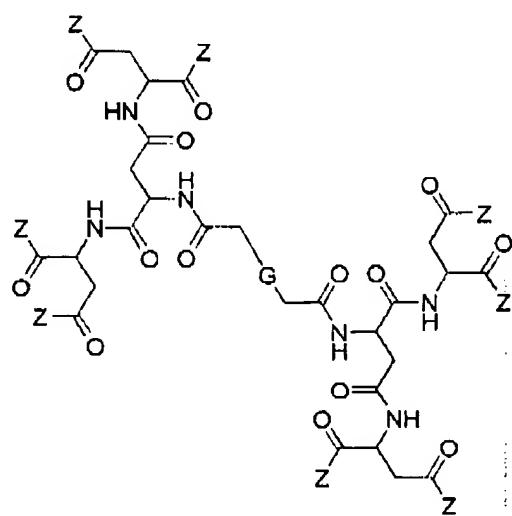


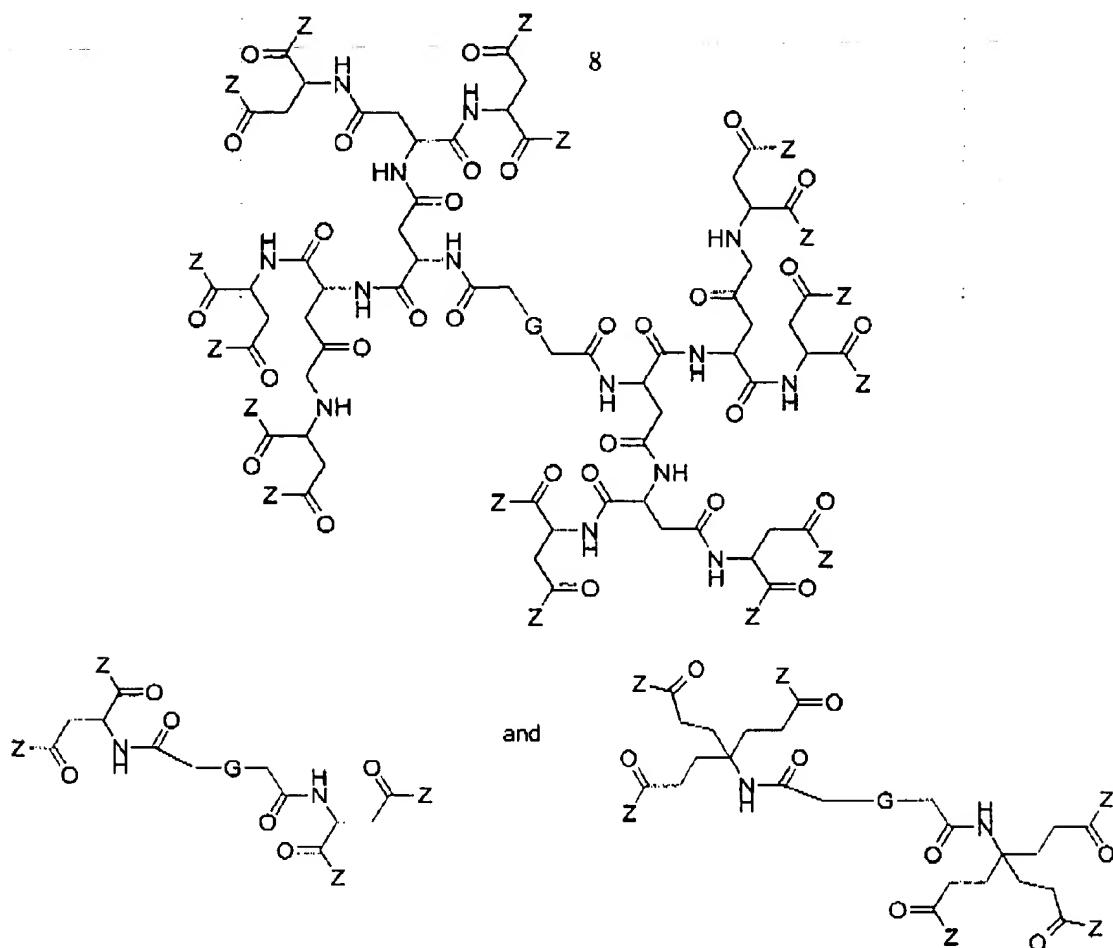
wherein

R<sub>12-13</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyls, C<sub>3-12</sub> branched alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> substituted alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, halo, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls, substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls;

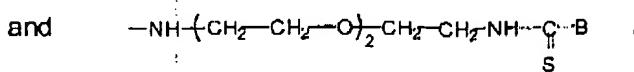
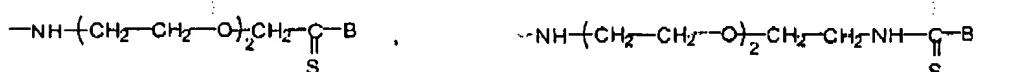
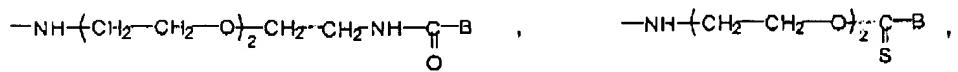
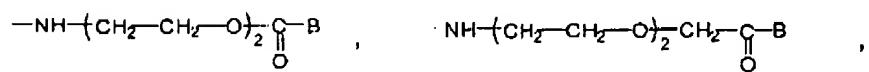
R<sub>14-18</sub> are independently selected from alkoxy, e.g. OR<sub>19</sub> or, in the alternative, H, OH, N<sub>3</sub>, NHR<sub>20</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> or CN, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, where R<sub>19-20</sub> are independently selected from the same group which defines R<sub>12-13</sub>.

14. (original) A compound of claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:

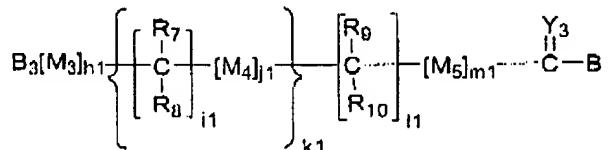




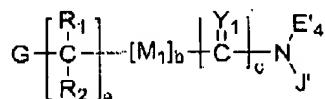
whereto Z is one of:



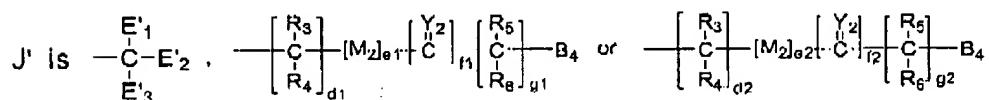
15. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a polymeric transport system, comprising

a) reacting compound of the formula:

wherein

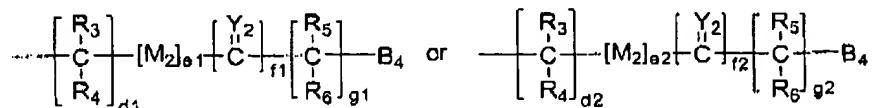
 $B$  is a residue of a biologically active amine-containing moiety or a hydroxyl-containing moiety; $B_3$  is a cleavable protecting group; $Y_3$  is O, S, or  $NR_{11a}$ ; $M_3$  and  $M_4$  are independently O, S, or  $NR_{11b}$ ; $M_5$  is X or Q;wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from  $C(=Y_3)$ ; $R_{7-10}$  and  $R_{11a-b}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls and substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls; $h1-m1$ ,  $h1$ ,  $i1$ ,  $j1$ ,  $l1$  and  $m1$  are each independently zero or a positive integer; $k1$  is a positive integer;b) cleaving the cleavable protecting group  $B_3$ ; andc) reacting the resultant compound with a compound of the formula

wherein



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$E'_{1-4}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, phenoxy,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkoxy,



wherin

$B_4$  is a leaving group;

$G$  is a polymer residue;

$Y_{1-2}$  are independently  $O$ ,  $S$ , or  $NR_{11a}$ ;

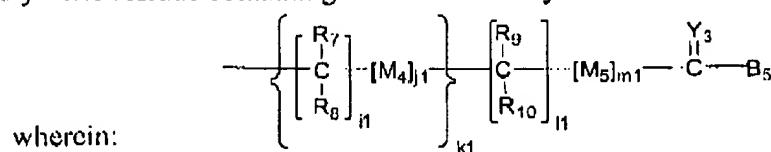
$M_{1-2}$  are independently  $O$ ,  $S$ , or  $NR_{11b}$ ;

$R_{1-6}$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls and substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls;

$a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d_1-g_1$  and  $d_2-g_2$  are each independently zero or a positive integer,

whereby a polymeric conjugate is formed.

16. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a polymeric transport system, comprising: reacting a biologically active moiety containing an unprotected amino or hydroxyl group with polymeric residue containing a terminal moiety of the formula:



wherin:

$Y_3$  is  $O$ ,  $S$ , or  $NR_{11a}$ ;

$R_{7-10}$  and  $NR_{11a}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls and substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls;

$M_{4-5}$  are independently  $O$ ,  $S$ , or  $NR_{11b}$ ;

R<sub>11a</sub> and R<sub>11b</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyls, C<sub>3-12</sub> branched alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> substituted alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls, substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, phenoxy and C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkoxy;

B<sub>5</sub> is a leaving group capable of reacting with an unprotected amino or hydroxyl group of a biologically active moiety; and

*iI-mI ii, jI, II and mI* are each independently zero or a positive integer, and  
*kI* is a positive integer;

whereby a polymeric conjugate is formed.

17. (original) A method of treatment, comprising:  
administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.

18. (original) A method of treatment, comprising:  
administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 3, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.